

REMARKS

The above referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated July 08, 2003, in which:

- the PTO has pointed out a typographical error in claim 13; and
- the Applicants are required, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

The PTO has asserted that the following are distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species 1: claims 1-19;
- Species 2: claims 20-29.

Reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of the foregoing election and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are now pending the above referenced patent application. No claims have been cancelled or added. Claim 13 has been amended; however, this is merely a correction of an inadvertent typographical error and no change in scope or prosecution history estoppel should result from the foregoing amendment.

A Petition for Extension of Time in order to extend the period for response 1 month(s), including the appropriate fee, is filed herewith.

I. Amendment to Claim 13

The PTO has kindly pointed out that claim 13 incorrectly depends from claim 1, and suggests that claim 13 should properly depend from claim 11. The PTO is correct that this was

an inadvertent typographical error. Applicants have amended the claim to properly depend from claim 11; however, this is merely a correction of an inadvertent typographical error and no change in scope or prosecution history estoppel should result from the foregoing amendment.

II. Election of One Species

Although the Applicants do not believe the restriction requirement is proper, nonetheless, Applicants elect to prosecute species 1, claims 1-19. Applicants have withdrawn claims 20-29 from consideration; however Applicants intend to pursue these claims in a divisional application.

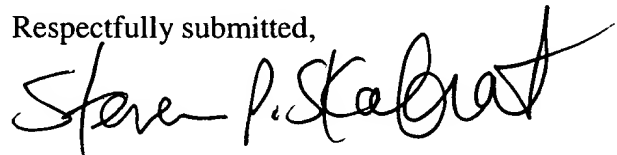
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, they are invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-8074. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: 8/20/2003

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 264-8074

Respectfully submitted,



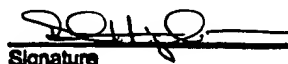
Steven P. Skabrat
Reg. No. 36,279

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

20 AUGUST 2003

Date of Deposit

DEBORAH L. HUGHAM
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

8/20/03
Date